

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 230

By Eldridge

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Pat Alford upon winning the 2009 Ms. Tennessee Senior America Pageant.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly pay tribute to those exemplary citizens who bring beauty, grace, and purpose to all their endeavors; and

WHEREAS, one such superlative woman is Pat Alford of Jackson, who was crowned the 2009 Ms. Tennessee Senior America; and

WHEREAS, the Ms. Senior America Pageant is the world's first and foremost pageant to emphasize and honor women who have reached the age of elegance; and

WHEREAS, the Ms. Tennessee Senior America Pageant awards those women who best exemplify the dignity, maturity, and inner beauty of all senior Americans, recognizing that senior citizens are the foundation of America and that it is because of their knowledge, experience, and resources that younger generations have the opportunity to build a stronger society; and

WHEREAS, a highly respected member of the Jackson community, Pat Alford lives a life permeated in every aspect by her positive philosophy that "Life is like a coin—you can only spend it once"; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Alford has accomplished much in her laudable life and she has served as a member of the Altrusa Club of Jackson and International, Jackson Business and Professional Women, the Jackson Theater Guild, the Jackson Arts Council, and the Jackson Arts Coalition; and

WHEREAS, in 1977, Pat Alford was employed by the City of Jackson as the first Cultural Arts Director for the Jackson Department of Recreation and Parks; in 1980, she was promoted

to the position of Program Director, and in 1982, she was promoted to Superintendent of Recreation as a result of her exemplary professionalism and skill; and

WHEREAS, in 2000, Mrs. Alford assumed a new position as Director of the Ned McWherter W.T. Cultural Arts Center, from which position she was promoted again in 2008 to the Building Manager, which position she presently holds; and

WHEREAS, she has dedicated her time and energies as a volunteer with the Altrusa Club, working with deserving organizations including the American Heart Association, Room at the Inn, Literacy, Youth Town, Western State Hospital, and the Women's Rape Assistance Program; and

WHEREAS, a woman of numerous interests and abilities, Pat Alford founded the Jackson Children's and Teen Theatre; under her able direction, the program, which consists of former students performing off Broadway Productions, Broadway Productions, and Broadway Touring Shows, performs six plays a year; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to accolades, Mrs. Alford has received several prestigious awards, including a Women of Achievement fellowship from the Department of Parks and Recreation, an Outstanding Contribution Award from the Tennessee Theatre Association, a Certificate of Appreciation from Governor New McWherter for outstanding service, and an Excellence in Cultural Arts and Programming Award, along with numerous Arts and Humanities awards; and

WHEREAS, despite her many successes, Pat Alford has experienced several difficult times in her life, through which she has prevailed; she served as her mother's primary caregiver for twenty years and was the caregiver to her late husband when he was suffering with Alzheimer's, during which time she was receiving treatment for cancer; and

WHEREAS, even during the most trying times, Mrs. Alford was uplifted by her co-workers, friends, church, and family; she is now in excellent health and is truly thriving; and

WHEREAS, in addition to her many involvements, Pat Alford is admired for her superlative vocal performances as a soloist with the Jackson Symphony, the Vocalist Musical Theater, and her church; she also sings with her church choir; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Alford's many accomplishments aside, she is most appreciative of the loving companionship of her late husband, Dr. Wayne Alford, and of her two sons, Rob Gilliland and Lucky Gilliland; and

WHEREAS, she is the proud grandmother of four grandchildren and three great-grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, Pat Alford is an exemplary woman whose life is defined by strong belief in passionately engaging life, and she is a firm example of family values and Christian service who should be specially honored; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor and congratulate Pat Alford upon being crowned the 2009 Ms. Tennessee Senior America, commend her for her meritorious service to the good people of the State of Tennessee, and wish her every success in all her future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.